

START AT HOME

#4



image: Kata Jtuta 1982. Lydia in *Bush Couture* handprinted Kimono. Linda wearing Utopia silk batik. Photo Fran Moore.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Linda Jackson is an artist and designer with more than 40 years of experience in the Australian fashion industry. In 1982 Jackson travelled to Utopia Station, in Central Australia, to work with a group of Anmatyerre women, who use the traditional Javanese technique of batik in their works of art. Utopia is known as one of the most diverse and internationally successful arts communities in Central Australia. During her visit, Jackson was inspired by the vibrant desert colours and local plants and animals that feature in artists' works.

ABOUT THE WORK

The Batik techniques used by Jackson and the artists from Utopia are created by drawing directly on cloth, and then dyeing the cloth. The wax lines create borders for the coloured dye. Utopia is the perfect place to use the batik techniques because the warm desert weather keeps the wax from drying before the artist has finished, and the hot sun dries the wet, dyed fabric quickly.

WAX AND WATERCOLOURS

MATERIALS YOU NEED

- Thick paper
- Wax candles
- Watercolour paints
- A sponge
- Pot of water
- Scissors
- Tape

BE INSPIRED!

Linda Jackson's works of art are on currently on display alongside the works of artists from Utopia in Gallery 19a.

CREATE YOUR OWN WORK OF ART

- 1 Using a candle, draw your design directly onto a thick piece of paper. Make sure to press hard enough to leave wax lines on the paper.
- 2 When your candle line work is finished, use a sponge and pot of water to wet your watercolours, then brush the watercolour across the paper. The wax will prevent the watercolours from soaking into your design and the lines will remain on the paper.
- 3 Experiment with different colours across the paper, and let the watercolours blend into each other so that the whole design is covered. Leave your design to dry in the sun.
- 4 To create your own wearable work of art, cut out a collar shape and secure with tape around your neck or shoulders.
- 5 Experiment using different coloured candles when drawing your wax lines, and cut out shapes to create cuffs and headbands.

FINISHED? We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or guardian to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia

 @artgalleryofsa #startatthegallery

Not on Instagram? No worries! Email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au